

# The INFORMANT

The Kansas City Missouri Police Department

## Leland Shurin sworn into BOPC

A new member has joined the Board of Police Commissioners to complete the term of another member who resigned last year.

"I have always thought the Kansas City Missouri Police Department was something special," says Leland M. Shurin, the newest member of the Board.

Shurin said he has always loved the police department. When he was in law school, he clerked for a large law firm where one of the attorneys at the time was a member of the Board of Police Commissioners. Shurin said it was just fascinating.

Shurin – a partner with the law firm Shaffer, Lombardo & Shurin – was recently appointed by Governor Jay Nixon as the chair of the Missouri Gaming Commission. But Shurin told the governor if a seat became available on the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners, he'd rather do that. So he resigned from the Gaming Commission to become a member of the Police

Commissioners. He was sworn in as the newest member on July 24, and voted at his first meeting on August 18. He will serve on the Board until 2018.

Born and raised in Kansas City, Shurin lived at 72nd and Oak growing up. He attended the University of Missouri, graduating with a degree in Economics in 1965. He then graduated from UMKC Law School in 1968.

He says that some officers may know of his parents, as his father was Nate of Nate's Swap Shop, Nate's Flea Market and the drive-in on 63rd Street. Shurin said a lot of officers worked for his father throughout the years, which allowed him to get to know and become friends with them.

Shurin's law firm is a general business and litigation practice. About half of what Shurin does is alternative dispute resolution, arbitration and mediation. He has received numerous accolades for his legal practice, being named a Super Lawyer from 2009 to

2014, and one of Ingram's Business Magazine's best commercial litigation attorneys in Kansas City from 2011 to 2014.

Shurin also is a member of the International Academy of Mediators. He says it is difficult to get into, and he is honored to be a part of it.

Outside of work, Shurin says he is a big Royals fan and a fan of World Cup soccer. He likes to follow the Premier and German leagues. He also says he and his wife enjoy traveling. Between his son living in

London, a daughter in Los Angeles and owning a second home in Phoenix, they travel a lot. They try to make it to London once a year, sometimes twice.

He and his wife, Jill, have two children and three grandchildren. His oldest daughter, Autumn, lives in L.A. She is a pediatrician and the mother of the Shurins' grandchildren – 5-year-old twin boys and a 3-year-old girl. Shurin's son Jared lives in London. He has an advertising agency and publishes books on the side. Shurin said his children are good people who are very smart but also very nice with great senses of humor. Shurin's wife Jill had a television show in Johnson County for many

years, and she traveled the country for various large companies doing in-house television shows.

Leland Shurin said he is very excited to be a new member of the BOPC and that he wants to do all he can to help. He said it is going to be a learning experience for him and will take some time, but he has enjoyed what he has experienced so far.

"I have really enjoyed the ride-alongs, the (virtual training) simulator and getting to meet numerous commanders and lots of officers on the streets," Shurin said. "It is all fascinating to me and I am looking forward to it."



**Judge Sandra Midkiff swore in Leland M. Shurin as the newest member of the Board of Police Commissioners on July 24. Governor Jay Nixon appointed Shurin, who will serve until 2018.**

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# Police help teens at risk for violence

Isaiah T. Wilson, 17, came to a big realization through a program designed to change the lives of teens at risk for violent behavior.

"To be truthful, if I didn't change, I'd probably be in prison or my grave right now," he said.

Wilson was one of more than 30 -plus youth involved in Teens in Transition – a program of the Kansas City No Violence Alliance that met for 10 weeks this summer and concluded with a celebration on Aug. 7. At that celebration, they unveiled art pieces they'd created through a program overseen by Kansas City artist Michael Toombs. The pictures were made completely from denim.

This is the second year for KC NoVA's Teens in Transition Program. Teens were identified by NoVA intelligence analysts and investigators as being associated with juvenile groups engaged in violent criminal activity.

"They're right on the fringe of heading down the wrong path," Sergeant Chris Young of KC NoVA said.

As police started to engage in enforcement action against members of the groups, they identified youth who showed interest in changing their lives. Wilson said he was in jail for six months when he was 13, and his parole officer got him involved in Teens in Transition. KCPD's School Resource Officers also identified teens from the schools they worked in to participate in Teens in Transition. Police met with the teens – ages 14-17 – and their families to ensure everyone was on board.

The teens spent 13 to 14 hours a week for 10 weeks at the Arts Tech organization working with each other and the school resource officers to create two large art pieces and four smaller ones that reflect police-community unity and female empowerment. The teens chose the topics of the art with Toombs' guidance.

"My goal is to try to provide the young people with an experience that allows them to make better choices," Toombs said. "Part of that revolves around their view of who the police are and vice versa. One of our goals was to create a process that would facilitate better communication between young people and police officers."

Sergeant Young said that's just what happened. The school resource officers worked alongside the youth, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and understand each other better, he said.



**Top: Teens came up with the idea of and created the "Step Forward" art piece of a KCPD officer and young man reaching out to each other. It was made completely from denim.**

**Bottom: School Resource Officers Patrick Byrd and Ryan Swope worked with Teens in Transition youth for 10 weeks.**



The police art piece features an officer and young person with hands outstretched toward each other and is titled "Step Forward."

Wilson said the atmosphere at the beginning was a little tense. None of the teens knew each other.

"It got everyone from around the city into one group," he said. "It started out we didn't like each other, but now we do. It's crazy. On the streets it wouldn't have been so calm and joyful."

The teens were paid for their work on the art. But that's not all that happened in Teens in Transition. The youth also participated in life skills courses, including entrepreneurship, fi-

nancial management and anger management. Some also attended tutoring sessions twice weekly.

Sergeant Young said the program has been a big success, with none of the participants having any contact with police outside of working with them on art.

KC NoVA Social Services Supervisor Omar Reed said many of the teens have transitioned to regular part-time employment and are preparing to apply for college.

Eight of the youth who were involved in the first session of Teens in Transition last year came

back again this summer to serve as mentors for the new group, which Sergeant Young said has worked out very well. Isaiah T. Wilson was one of them.

"We created this group," Wilson said of the program. The first session of teens actually came up with the Teens in Transition name. "I hope this program goes as far as it can. You meet new people and do fun stuff. I'm not the only one out there who was doing bad stuff."

Participants' families and the community came to the August 7 celebration. Mayor Sly James, Jackson County Prosecutor Jean Peters-Baker and other members of the KC NoVA directors' board were also there. The finished artwork will be displayed in public buildings like schools and the Jackson County Courthouse.

As for Wilson, he will graduate from Kansas City's Central High School in 2017 and wants to go to college on a basketball scholarship. He'd eventually like to own and operate a jewelry store.



# New squad focuses on mentally ill people in crisis

Earlier this year, officers encountered a woman who was 5 months pregnant, homeless, and addicted to alcohol and drugs. She was admitted to a hospital on a 96-hour mental health hold. Technically, that was all officers had to do. But a new squad is ensuring people like this don't fall through the cracks. Members of the CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) Squad visited the woman and brought a community mental health liaison with them. They got her into 30-day residential treatment the very next day. There, she received treatment for her addiction, prenatal care and a healthy environment. She was moved to transitional housing after that, where she continues to receive treatment and support services for herself and her unborn child.

None of that would have happened without the officers of the CIT Squad, the community mental health liaison who accompanied them said. Right now, the squad consists of a sergeant and two officers on special assignment who have extensive CIT experience, as well as five community mental health liaisons from mental health providers around the city. They're overseen by Captain Darren Ivey, who says he hopes someday the squad can become permanent and expand to two sergeants and 10 officers because of the volume of police activity that involves mentally ill residents.

"Easily a fourth of our calls for service involve an EDP (emotionally disturbed person)," CIT Squad member Sergeant Sean Hess said.

More than 30 percent of patrol officers on the department have undergone CIT training to better handle mentally ill people in crisis, but the Squad steps in where patrol officers can't. Captain Ivey said one strategic unit was needed to oversee training and provide follow-up with known mentally ill people referred by patrol officers and others. Patrol officers must go from call to call and don't usually have the time to work with local mental health providers to get the mentally ill into long-term treatment, he said. The CIT Squad can do that.

"It saves us from doing 47 calls for service a month on one person," Captain Ivey said.

Sergeant Hess concurred.

"You can't arrest your way out of mental illness," he said. "You have to stop the revolving door."

Since their start in February, the CIT Squad also has compiled a list of chronic callers to 911, the Chief's Office and other units who may be mentally ill and in need of assistance. They have visited nearly all of those people and have gotten many into treatment. They also determine which may be dangerous and/or need to be addressed through the criminal justice system.

The Squad monitors calls for service and responds to those involving mentally ill people in crisis. They also serve as a central point of contact for all mental illness-related questions department members may have. Once they started introducing the Squad to district officers at roll calls, the phone calls came rolling in.

"During roll calls, at first, some officers said, 'Oh great, another unit,'" CIT Squad Officer Ashley McCuniff said. "But then we explain what we do, and they say, 'Oh, wow, we really need you.' We're getting tons of calls from roll call training now. Officers are sending us people to check on every day. They hear us on the radio and hear everything we're doing."

The officers also work on outreach to homeless veterans, coordinate with specialty courts and judges and oversee the hundreds of hours of CIT training conducted each year in the Kansas City area.

In just their first five months, and with only three people (and just two from February through May), the CIT Squad has racked up some impressive statistics: 213 residence checks, more than 100 homeless veterans contacted, 55 calls for service, nine voluntary commitments for treatment and 25 involuntary commitments for treatment.

"I've seen the difference we're making," Sergeant Hess said. "There are people in treatment now who never would have been before."



## News In Brief

A total of 1,077 department members participated in health fairs this year in June and July, presented by the KCPD Shield of Health committee.



Satisfaction with quality of police services increased by 3% on the City's annual Citizen Satisfaction Survey, Mayor Sly James announced Aug. 13. This was the greatest increase of any city service on the survey.

## Upcoming Events

September 7  
Labor Day

September 15  
Board of Police  
Commissioners Meeting

September 20  
Broadway Bridge Run

The mission of the  
Kansas City Missouri  
Police Department  
is to protect and serve  
with professionalism,  
honor and integrity.

## Officially Speaking

### Awards

#### ***Special Unit Citation***

KC NoVA Unit

Major Joe McHale  
Captain Joel Lovelady  
Sergeant Garrik Haynes  
Sergeant Chris Young  
Officer Kelly Sapp  
Detective Bradley Bailey  
Detective Jason Cramblit  
Detective Tiffany Davis  
Detective Nathan Kinate  
Detective Michael Lenoir  
Detective Maurice Oatis  
Detective Chad Pickens

Career Criminal Squad

Sergeant Eric Greenwell  
Master Det. Matthew Williams  
Detective Joseph Daneff  
Detective Craig Horalek  
Detective Vernon Huth  
Detective John Keil  
Detective Michael Miller

#### ***Meritorious Service Award***

Major Joe McHale  
Officer Matthew Blome  
Officer James Bryant  
Officer Rebecca Caster  
Officer Luke Ewert  
Officer William Finn  
Officer Ilinca Rusnac  
Officer Erich Kenning-Zweimiller  
Detective Donald Stanze

### Awards Continued

#### ***Certificate of***

#### ***Commendation***

Captain Daniel Graves  
Captain Kevin O'Sullivan  
Sergeant Scott Selock  
Sergeant Samuel Spencer  
Sergeant Bryan Truman  
Sergeant Michael Ward  
Officer Adam Bailey  
Officer Jermaine Garth  
Officer Joel Godfrey  
Officer David Hoffman  
Officer Scott McGregor  
Officer Nickolas McNallan  
Officer Jeremy Meythaler  
Officer Justin Pinkerton  
Officer Jason Quint  
Officer Anthony Stasiak  
Officer Daniel Stookey  
Officer Brent Zimmerman  
Detective Kevin Baar  
Detective Aaron Benson  
Detective Tiffany Davis  
Detective Adam Hill  
Detective Daniel Kaat  
Detective Michael Lenoir  
Detective Kevin Richardson  
Detective Christopher Van Draska  
Analyst Andrew Stanley  
Forensic Spec. Christopher  
Whitaker

### Retirements

Deputy Chief Randolph  
Hopkins  
Sergeant Lawrence White  
Officer Preston Crockett  
Officer Louis Phillips  
Admin. Assist. Patsy Hopkins

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